

Remarks

The June 16, 2005 Office Action rejected all pending claims as obvious based on U.S. patent 4,126,172 in view of U.S. patent application publication 2003/0070221. In view of the amendment above and remarks below, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Art Rejection

All claims have been initially rejected based on U.S. patent 4,126,172 in view of U.S. patent application publication 2003/0070221. U.S. patent application publication 2003/0070221 (e.g. Fig. 3) is merely of background interest. It teaches a by-pass style door in which one door is marked with a word image. However, neither door is marked with an image of a real object, nor does the second door have any imagery that assists in combining with the image on the first door. It appears no greater than of cumulative interest as compared to the art noted at paragraph [0005] of the application specification (e.g. the art re-submitted herewith).

The Office Action acknowledged that U.S. patent 4,126,172 does not depict doors as distinguished from curtains (referring to the secondary reference to make up that deficiency). Further, claim 1 has now been amended to stress that the imagery can be moved to a position along the entry in which the images don't overlap and the real object image is not appreciable.

In U.S. patent 4,126,172 the cloud curtain is designed to normally extend across the entire entry in use, and thus the images of the cloud curtain and bird curtain are designed to always overlap. Hence, there is no suggestion in this particular reference of making curtains, much less doors, that don't overlap along the entry and in that non-overlapping position don't appear to show the real image appreciable when

they are overlapping. Both the cloud and the bird curtains always show the real image, even when not overlapping.

In paragraph [0029] of the application specification it is stated that the overall image created by the overlapping of the first and second imagery has "an independent, recognizable meaning or order representational of a real item that is different from, and not provided by, either the first image feature or the second image feature by themselves."

Similarly, paragraph [0030] emphasizes that the invention can provide a door system where neither the fragmentary first image by itself, nor the fragmentary second image by itself suggest the overall image. However, overlapping doors in accordance with the present invention can make the real object surprisingly appear.

New Claim

New claim 8 has been added which states "...the door assembly is configured such that as the second imagery of the second door is translated into an overlapping relationship from a non-overlapping relationship with respect to the first imagery of the first door, the first and second imagery combine to progressively make the real object more appreciable". As indicated in paragraph [0036] of the application specification, "the particular first and second image features 210, 220 not only make it possible to arrive at the overall image feature 280 when the panels 120, 130 are completely overlapping, but also provide a meaningful, progressive image that changes as the degree to which the panels 150, 160 overlap varies" [emphasis added]. Progressive images that change with the degree to which the images overlap are not suggested or taught by the cited references.

Catalog Art

The Office Action noted that the Kohler literature on the IDS has been considered, but that some of the sheets available to the examiner have darkened areas. Applicant assumes that

the use of the electronic file wrapper scanning system at the PTO may have led to the copies of certain submitted art being less clear in the form available to the examiner than when submitted. In any event, to make the record completely clear, Applicant is submitting herewith original color versions of these pages directly from the catalogs themselves.

Conclusion

As such, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. No additional fee is believed to be necessary for the entry of this submission. However, if one is, please charge the amount of the fee to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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